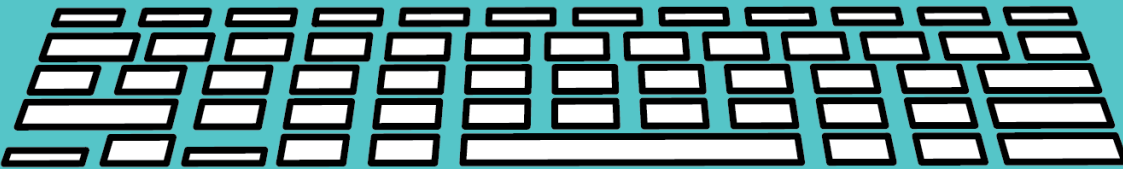


AMENDMENT  
ABOLISHED  
POLL TAXES,  
WHICH AT ONE  
TIME MADE  
PEOPLE PAY TO  
VOTE

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. How old must you be to vote?	
2. What year was the US government formed?	
3. What are Republicans also known as?	
4. The 2 political parties are Republican & what?	
5. What is the paper to cast your vote called?	
6. What amendment gave women the right to vote?	
7. What year was the 15th amendment ratified?	
8. What is the ballot for people out of town called?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. How did many people believe the country should be run?		9. Voting enables the _____ to rule.	
2. What year was the US government first formed?		10. In order to vote, you must be a US _____.	
3. What are Republicans also known as?		11. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was passed.	
4. The 2 political parties are Republican & what?		12. When you vote you are choosing the direction of our _____.	
5. What is the paper to cast your vote called?		13. Voters head to _____ locations in their _____ town.	
6. What amendment gave women the right to vote?		14. _____ Republican party was founded in the year _____.	
7. What year was the 15th amendment ratified?		15. In some states you had to own _____ in order to vote.	
8. What is the ballot for people out of town called?		16. A _____ is someone who has committed a serious crime.	



# VOTING RIGHTS

There are many times you are given options in life and you vote for your wish. For example, if you want to have raised your hand when the teacher gave a choice like, "Do you want to do a science experiment or art project?" Or, at home perhaps your dad asked you what you wanted to eat at McDonalds or Wendy's? Maybe you have had a choice in your class. Sometimes, if the results aren't what you really wanted, you may feel your opinion and wishes don't count.

Voting is a process where you express a decision by casting a vote, either formally or casually. Often times voting refers to casting a vote for public officials at the local, state, and national levels. Voting is a responsibility to rule. In the United States, you must be at least 18 years old and a citizen to vote over age 18, though it wasn't always that way. Voting today is free and voluntary.

**Election Day:** Voters go to polling locations in their hometown which are usually held in schools, city halls, or recreation centers. On election day, you check and show your identification (license or passport), give your state ID, and you a ballot (paper on which you color in small boxes to cast your vote).

You take the ballot to a voting booth with a screen for privacy. Here you mark your choices on the ballot and then head to the ballot box where you place your ballot in a machine. Sometimes, there could be a computer screen to mark your vote. Some ballots may be sent in for those who are not in their hometown on election day. After voting hours are over, poll workers and election officials count the votes with the help of computers.

**Early Voting Rights:** When the US government was formed in 1790, some people weren't allowed to vote based on their gender, race, or age. In some states you had to own property in order to vote, which (back in the day) really meant only white men could vote because they were the only ones who owned property. Only about 120,000 people out of more than 4 million were allowed to vote. By 1860 almost every state allowed all white men over 21 to vote. Enslaved persons and women were not allowed to vote, even in 1865 when the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution became law, making slavery illegal.

Even after the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870 (protecting everyone's rights to vote, regardless of the color of their skin and if they were former slaves), it still took some time for women, enslaved persons, and African Americans to earn the right to vote.

**Women:** While introduced to Congress in 1848 during the first Women's Rights Convention, it took women decades to finally earn the right to vote with the 19th Amendment ratified in 1920.

**Native Americans:** Native Americans earned their right to vote in 1924 when the

Indian Citizen Act was passed. However, it wasn't until 1948 that they were allowed to vote in every single state. By 1975, other minorities in the United States, such as Asian Americans, and people of Spanish ancestry were also allowed to vote.

**Black Americans:** It wasn't until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s when Black Americans were allowed to vote in the south. The 1965 Voting Rights Act prohibited racial discrimination with voting.

**Current qualifications for voting:** In order to vote in the United States, you must be a US citizen and at least 18 years old on election day. Additionally, you cannot be a felon (someone who has committed a serious crime) or mentally incompetent. Sometimes there are other state rules that vary such as how long you need to live there before you can vote.

**Why vote? Is it important?** Voting allows everyone to have a voice and opinion on something. While it may not seem that your tiny vote in a sea of millions will make much of a difference, it does! It's important to be a part of something larger and own that responsibility.

More people will vote in the presidential election than other elections. Yet, even in a major election, only a percentage of voters will actually vote.

**Why do we vote for?** The United States has 2 main political parties – Republican and Democrats. Each group has specific beliefs and goals and they run the government. Democrats, founded in 1828, are known as "liberals" or "progressives" who support larger government programs and higher taxes. Republicans, founded in 1854 by anti-slavery activists, are known as "conservatives." They fight for smaller government and lower taxes. In a presidential election, there is one candidate from the Republican Party and one candidate from the Democrat party. You also make a choice to support or oppose. Get to know the candidates and what they stand for. What kind of changes do they want to make? Who sponsors them? Who do they support? A voter guide will give you background information on candidates in a particular election. Candidates with experience are better.

Never rely on television news specials as your primary source of research in choosing candidates. Often times, commercial news simply dredge up negatives on the opposing candidate.

Now you need to form your own opinion. What do you think about what YOUR candidates say? What triggers your politics interest? What are the most important problems you wish you could solve? Now, when you see a candidate, what are those words you check out? Their experience, character, beliefs, knowledge, track record, consistency, proof, what they say about each other, etc. There will be a lot to think about. Find who fits exactly what you want or need, however, choose someone who is best for your ideals.

**The importance of voting:** When you vote, you are setting the direction of our country. You want to elect leaders who will make the necessary change to improve the future.

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**PLEASE VIEW  
THE VIDEO TO  
SEE HOW THIS  
PRODUCT WORKS**